

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-23, 25, 27-32, 34 and 35 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended. No claims have been added. No claims have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,282.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-11, 13 and 14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,282.

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-18 and 21 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,282.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 28 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-19 and 25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,282.

The Examiner has rejected claims 29-32, 34 and 35 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,282.

In response, Applicant is filing simultaneously herewith, a terminal disclaimer in which a terminal portion of the claims of the subject application that extends beyond the term of the claims of the U.S. Patent No. 6,731,282, if the subject application were to mature into a granted patent is disclaimed. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the terminal disclaimer, the

Examiner should withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-23, 25, 27-32, 34 and 35 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the claims and the abstract have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-23, 25, 27-32, 34 and 35 as amended are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 3/21/02

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